

# 2011 Annual Report



## Pennsylvania



A USDA Rural Development Business and Industry loan guarantee helped fund the construction of Unilife, Inc., a state-of-the-art syringe manufacturing company in York. Thomas Williams (right) joined USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan (center) as she conducted a White House Business Council meeting hosted by Alan Shortall, (left) Unilife, Inc. CEO.



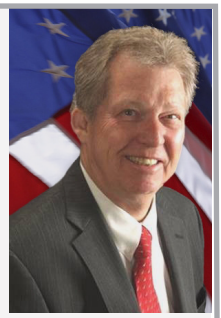
"Strong rural communities are a key to a stronger America. President Obama has acknowledged as much in his travel to rural communities, and through the creation of the first-ever White House Rural Council, and at USDA we share his conviction."

--Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture



"In Fiscal Year 2011, USDA Rural Development delivered programs to the American people that created jobs and new economic opportunities in rural communities. I am proud to report that our three mission areas, Housing, Utilities and Business and Cooperative Programs, have collectively helped save or create thousands of jobs in rural America."

--Dallas Tonsager, Under Secretary for Rural Development



"USDA Rural Development had a remarkable year in Pennsylvania. In Fiscal Year 2011 (FY2011), we helped to create jobs and improve the ability of rural communities to attract new employers. USDA programs also boosted local economies by providing affordable financing to small businesses, farmers and homebuyers."

We will continue to work diligently to create vibrant, economically sustainable communities across Pennsylvania."

--Thomas P. Williams, State Director



## USDA Rural Development Seven Strategies for Economic Development

Alternative Energy•Broadband•Community Building•Capital Markets•Regional Food Systems•Regional Collaboration•Strategic Partners

### Strategic Partners

*The old adage that there is strength in numbers especially holds true when you build strong strategic alliances.*

USDA partnered with the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Agency, the Appalachian Regional Commission and other local offices and agencies to bring public water and sewer to rural areas throughout Pennsylvania, such as those shown below. In FY2011, Rural Development provided \$55,399,700 in water and environmental program loan and grant funding.



A Water and Environmental program loan will allow for public sewer for Washington Township, Fayette County residences currently served by malfunctioning on-lot sewer systems.



A Water and Environmental program loan will allow for public water to a community in Wysox, Bradford County, that currently has no water facilities, alleviating health and safety problems for 486 residences.



## Capital Markets

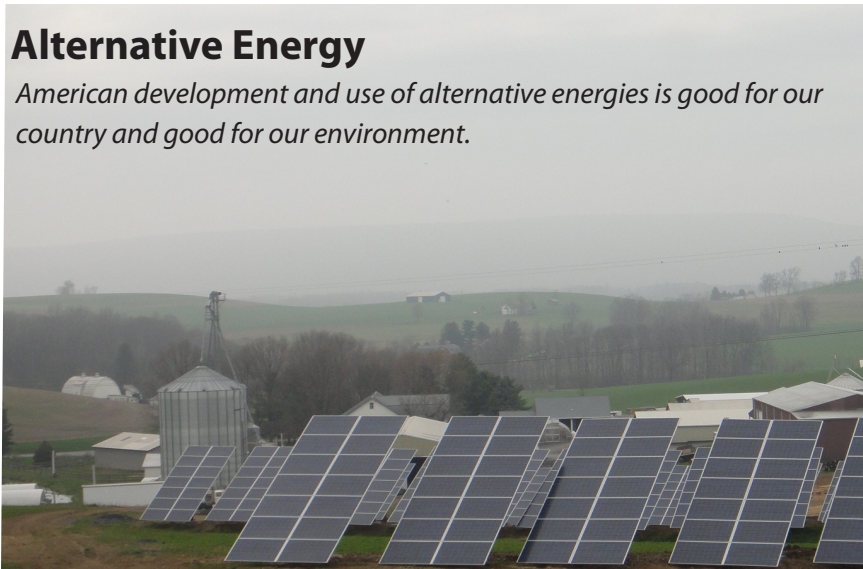
*Stimulating local economies requires the infusion of new investment opportunities.*

Business & Industry loan guarantees benefit lenders, businesses and communities. Lenders reduce their risk and boost their lending limit. Businesses can secure financing with competitive rates and terms. Business programs are also available to develop rural cooperatives, advance value-added opportunities, establish economic development plans and feasibility studies, install energy efficient heating and cooling systems and much more. In FY2011, Rural Development provided \$49,615,110 in business programs loans and grants, including a Rural Business Enterprise Grant to the Fine Arts Discovery Series in Stroudsburg for improvements to the Sherman Theater.



## Alternative Energy

*American development and use of alternative energies is good for our country and good for our environment.*



Rural Development Deputy Secretary Dallas Tonsager (right) visited Pennsylvania in September for a tour of USDA projects that are helping to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

Rural Development funded over \$2.8 million Rural Energy For America Program grants in FY2011. The majority of the 53 recipients will install solar panels to help improve energy efficiency.

Rural Development has many programs to assist farmers and rural businesses with energy-related issues and opportunities.

These range from basic scientific research to the development and commercialization of new technologies. They include outreach and education, technical assistance programs, financial support for infrastructure, and the adoption of biobased and energy-savings products. USDA recognizes that renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation programs provide opportunities for economic growth and prosperity in rural America.

Rural Energy for America Program grant funding supported Chris Powell of Good Harvest Farm (right) in the replacement of an 80-year old greenhouse with a new energy-efficient 4,000 sq. ft facility. Projections show a 40% reduction in energy costs.



HERO BX in Erie received biofuels payments from Rural Development.



Cheryl Cook, Rural Development Deputy Under Secretary (far right) and Thomas Williams (left) with Roxanne Molnar, Rural Energy for America Program grant recipient who installed a new heating and cooling system on her poultry farm.



## Community Building

*Creating great places to live, raise families, provide recreational opportunities, and infrastructure for high-paying jobs is very important to our efforts at USDA.*



Latia Reed of Shippensburg moved into her new, Rural Development financed home in June, 2011

In FY2011, Rural Development provided a total of \$614,343,485 in housing assistance, including 181 low-interest direct home loans and 4,247 guaranteed mortgage loans for low and moderate income homebuyers. Over 400 homeowners were also able to finance vital improvements necessary to make their homes decent, safe and sanitary. Rural rental housing subsidies helped senior citizens and low income individuals.

(Below) Pittston Area Memorial Library received Community Facilities funding for library improvements to the children's area and new public access computers. Library Director Anne Hogya (left) thanked US Senator Casey (center) and Thomas Williams (right).



Rural Development provided Community Facilities Program funding for the construction of RoseCrest, a state-of-the-art assisted living facility in Mars that features private suites and 24-hour care.





## Regional Food Systems

*Building markets for local and regionally grown agricultural products makes great economic sense.*



USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan with food entrepreneur Millie Kemmer and Darrell Auterson, NutriCore Northeast at the YorKitchen Incubator.



Located within York's Downtown Central Market, YorKitchen, funded, in part, through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program, will help to overcome the road blocks that often stand between a farmer or food entrepreneur and a marketable product. YorKitchen is also partnering with community service organizations to provide extensive educational programs to educate low-income individuals on nutrition and healthy food options. The kitchen will also provide workforce training opportunities and business start-up technical assistance.

## Regional Collaboration

*Smaller, more remote rural communities do not have to be stand-alone economic engines in an oasis, each looking only from within for sustainability*

Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission and partners from surrounding counties meet quarterly as part of the Stronger Economies Together (SET) training and technical assistance program, sponsored by USDA Rural Development, the Northeast Regional Rural Development Center and Penn State Extension. The SET program is a nationwide effort focused on working with regional groups to encourage and strengthen regional thinking.



The Lands at Hillside Farm, a 412-acre farm, welcoming over 350,000 visitors annually to its dairy store, historic barns, pristine grounds and hiking trails, supports the regional economy by promoting and selling products produced by local and regional producers.

Through a Rural Business Enterprise Grant, the farm is now providing hands-on job training for disabled youth. The youth not only grow vegetables but also learn the skills of marketing by taking the vegetables to a

weekly farmer's market, setting up a display and selling the produce to local residents.

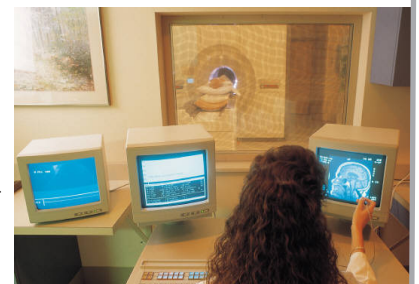
## Broadband

*Expanding access to high-speed broadband is one of our greatest challenges and our highest priority.*

### Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program is designed to meet the educational and health care needs of rural America.

Five medical facilities in Pennsylvania were awarded \$866,397 to install telemedicine equipment.



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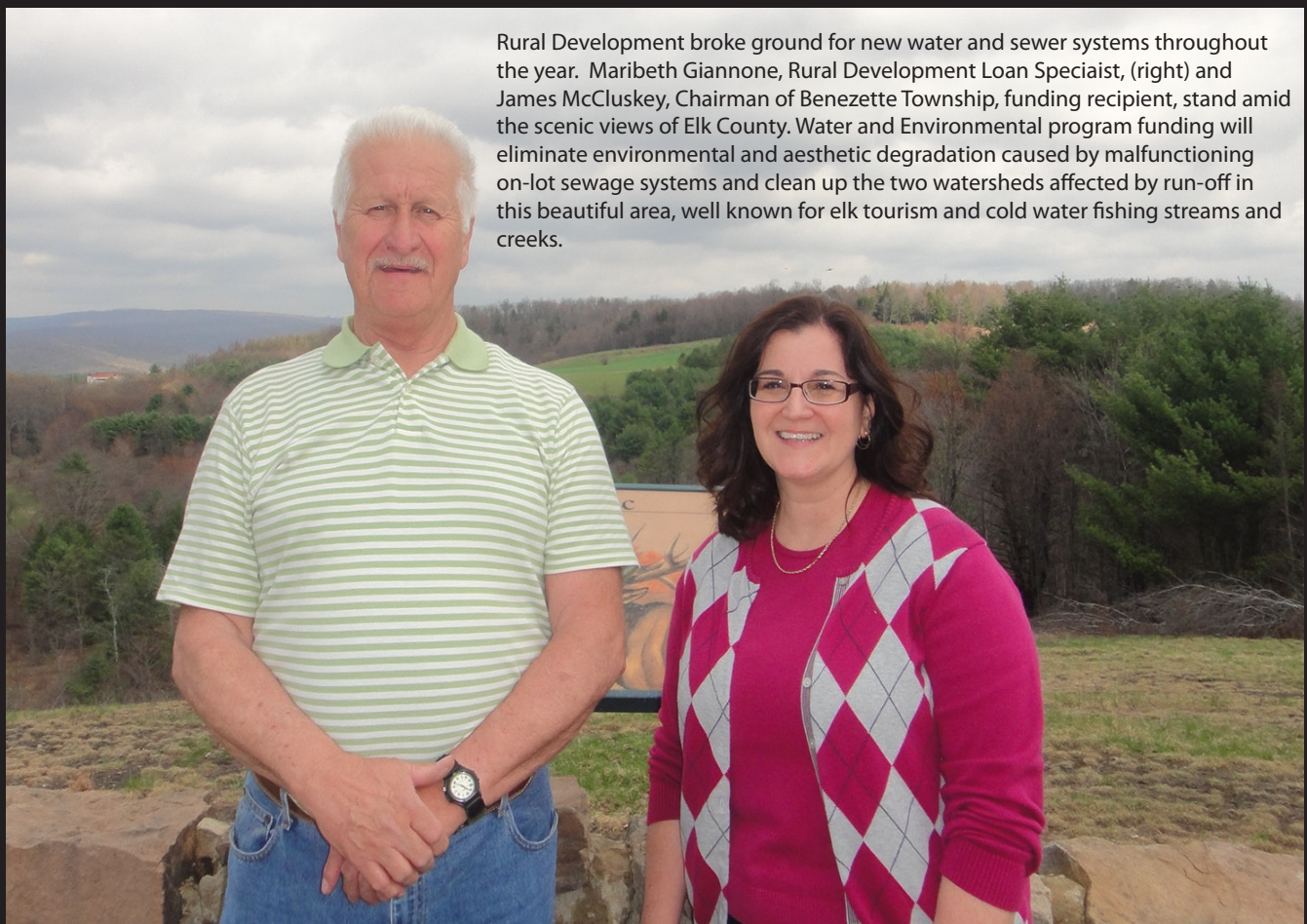
Clarion Forest Visiting Nurse Association completed construction on a new visiting nurse and hospice care service agency building (rendering pictured above), funded through the Community Facilities program, that will serve both Clarion and Forest County residents.

In FY 2011, USDA Rural Development funded over \$18 million in Community Facilities loans and grants to safety and public service vehicle purchases and to build assisted living facilities, libraries, and other public facilities. By partnering with other counties and harnessing the resources of different groups, rural communities are able to sustain essential infrastructure.

The Community Facilities Program is designed to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas, including schools, libraries, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living, fire and rescue stations, police stations, public buildings and transportation. This program can fund construction, land acquisition, initial operating costs, repairs and equipment.

**Find your local Rural Development office at:**

**[www.rurdev.usda.gov/PA\\_Contact\\_Us.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/PA_Contact_Us.html) or call 717-237-2299**



Rural Development broke ground for new water and sewer systems throughout the year. Maribeth Giannone, Rural Development Loan Specialist, (right) and James McCluskey, Chairman of Benezette Township, funding recipient, stand amid the scenic views of Elk County. Water and Environmental program funding will eliminate environmental and aesthetic degradation caused by malfunctioning on-lot sewage systems and clean up the two watersheds affected by run-off in this beautiful area, well known for elk tourism and cold water fishing streams and creeks.